

18th meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, 17-18 October 2023

Item 8 (b) Regional events on monitoring and assessment

IWAC activities on monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins in Central Asia

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Activities on monitoring, assessment and information sharing in the transboundary basins

Program of Work of IWAC for 2022-2024 – to assist countries in developing coordinated monitoring in the transboundary basins

1) Support in updating and preparing the guidance materials of the Convention on monitoring and assessment

Regional workshop on monitoring, assessment and information sharing in Central Asia, 1-2 February 2023, Astana, Kazakhstan

2) Support to the Joint Kazakh - Uzbek Working Group for water Quality of Syrdarya

Developing measures on prevention of Syrdarya from the accidental pollution



Regional workshop on monitoring, assessment and information sharing in Central Asia

1-2 February 2023, Astana, Kazakhstan

Objectives:

- to identify current practices and enable sharing of experience on monitoring, information and data exchange in Central Asia;
- to raise awareness about the approaches to monitoring, information and data exchange under the Water Convention;
- to identify lessons learned and good practices as possible examples to be included in the new publication “Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange”;
- to assist in identifying the common approaches to improve cooperation on monitoring, assessment and data exchange in Central Asia

Participants: representatives of the relevant state bodies (water, environment, foreign affairs, etc.) and hydrometeorological services, basin commissions and international organizations, NGOs, experts from Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). Invited Experts from Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovakia, International Sava River Basin Commission, WMO, INBO, IGRAC and others

Regional workshop on monitoring, assessment and information sharing in Central Asia (2)

Main conclusions and lessons learned:

- Insufficient funding, poor material and technical equipment and other factors limit proper monitoring and data exchange in Central Asia
- exchange of predictive data on water content is difficult in practice
- access to information and openness of data on water is a problem
- There are no agreements on protection and use of groundwaters
- Central Asia is vulnerable to impact of climate change
- Activities of the mining industry are associated with a high risks of pollution of transboundary waters



Syrdarya River Basin



- Syrdarya is the second largest river in Central Asia
- Riparian countries are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- Population living in the basin - about 25 mln.

Developing measures to prevent accidental pollution of Syrdarya

- **Supporting KZ – UZ Joint Working Group on Protection of Environment of Syrdarya**
- in developing joint mechanisms for prevention of pollution of Syrdarya in emergency situations
- *First stage of project:* creating basis for the coordinated mechanism for prevention and respond to pollution of Syrdarya in emergency situations
- *Project activities:* analysis of potential sources of pollution of Syrdarya, identification of risks of accidental pollution and proposing recommendations on the coordinated measures to prevent pollution and respond to it in emergency situations.
- *Beneficiaries:* Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- *With the support of the European Union*

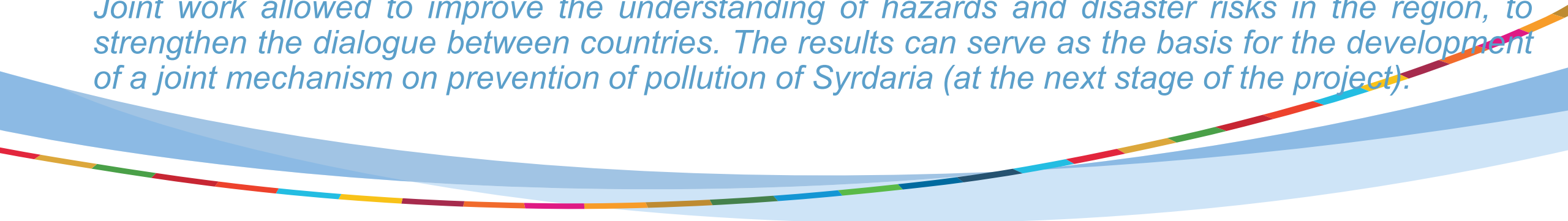


Developing measures to prevent accidental pollution of Syrdarya (2)

Main findings and conclusions:

- Agriculture is the main polluter, up to 90% of pollution sources; industry is also major polluter by the heavy metals, phenols and petroleum products; discharge of untreated wastewaters
- There is no joint system for information exchange, notification, monitoring, joint coordination, early warning system and no joint contingency plan.
- Lack of investment and irregular transboundary cooperation between countries are limiting factors.
- Uranium tailings from the Soviet Union threaten the safety of the basin. The region is vulnerable to natural disasters such as earthquakes, landslides and mudflows.
- 61 tailings dumps in the Syrdarya basin, more than 33 dumps can have a transboundary impact. Climate change exacerbates the risks of industrial accidents

Joint work allowed to improve the understanding of hazards and disaster risks in the region, to strengthen the dialogue between countries. The results can serve as the basis for the development of a joint mechanism on prevention of pollution of Syrdarya (at the next stage of the project).



Planned future activities

- Continue support to the Joint Kazakh-Uzbek Working Group on Water Quality of the Syrdarya River - assist in drafting a Joint Contingency Plan for the Syrdarya
- Continue assistance in capacity-building and sharing experience on monitoring and assessment of water in Central Asia, as well as dissemination of Convention tools related to monitoring, assessment and information sharing (*pending the availability of resources*)
- Assist in strengthening cooperation on monitoring of Pre-Tashkent Transboundary Aquifer

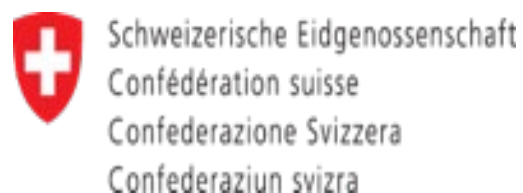


5. Partners



Исполнитель:

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Thank you!

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